

# *The* **SOUTHEAST NEWS**

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

JANUARY, 1955



YOUTH WEEK — JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 6



## Social Security for Ministers

By recent act of Congress, ministers of religion are now eligible for social security on a so-called "self-employed" basis. This designation was used in order to provide ministers with voluntary coverage. Coverage becomes available beginning January 1, 1955, with first payment being made when the 1955 income tax report is filed in January, 1956. The beginning rate of payment will be three per cent of the salary not exceeding \$4,200, and will be paid in 1956 for 1955 coverage.

Ministers wishing to receive coverage should get the necessary application blanks from their area Social Security office as soon as possible.

Ministers will have two years in which to choose coverage. We earnestly recommend that every Congregational minister avail himself of this opportunity. Members are fully insured after 18 months of continuous coverage, regardless of age. Benefits are available for members at age 65, also for both minister and wife when both reach 65, or for widow at age 65, or for widow and dependent child or children at any age following the member's death.

We recommend membership to our ministers in addition to their membership in the Congregational Ministers Annuity Fund, not as a substitute for it, for a minister's family needs the help and protection of both. If your minister cannot afford to belong to both, we urge your church to make it possible by assuming a larger percentage of his regular annuity dues or arranging a modest salary increase to cover the added financial burden. It will be a good investment and illustrate that care and concern a church should have for its pastor and his family.

## "One Fellowship In Christ"

January 30 to February 6 is Youth Week. This is an annual, interdenominational observance. The theme is "One Fellowship in Christ". The first Sunday is Pilgrim Fellowship Sunday and in many churches young people will conduct the services of worship.

The goal of this observance is to help the youth of the community experience for themselves and witness to others the unity and strength found in wider Christian fellowship. The Church's growth has rested upon the reality of this Fellowship.

## Work Day for Christ

The idea of a Work Day for Christ originated in a P.F. group at Friend, Neb., about 15 years ago. Now it is a national day in our churches with almost 500 groups working and contributing more than \$20,000 (last year) to Our Christian World Mission. Young people's groups sending in contributions since November 30 are:

Daisy Cong'l Church .....	\$ 12.68
Garden City Church .....	7.50
Chattanooga Pilgrim Church .....	50.00
Langdale Church .....	43.00
	<hr/>
	\$113.18

## Calendar of Events - 1955

- Jan. 4 - Special Convention meeting of ministers and selected lay people, Atlanta Central Church, 10:30 - 4:30 E.S.T.
- Jan. 13 - Meeting of Convention Committee on Ministry and Churches, 10 A.M. C.S.T., Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala.
- Jan. 15 - Convention Campsite Committee, Tallassee, Alabama, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. C.S.T.
- Jan. 14-27 - Midwinter Meetings of the denomination in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Jan. 30 - Pilgrim Fellowship Sunday and Youth Week.
- Feb. 8 - Southeast Convention Program Planning Committee, Atlanta, 10:30 A.M. E.S.T.
- Feb. 15 - Convention Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education, Atlanta, 10:30 A.M. E.S.T.
- Feb. 22 - Convention Committee on Survey & Church Aid, Atlanta, 10:30 A.M. E.S.T.
- Feb. 23 - Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent
- Feb. 25-27 - First Nationwide Meeting of Congregational Christian Churchmen, Chicago.
- Feb. 26 - Ladies' Night Banquet of East Alabama Laymen's Fellowship at Southern Union.
- Feb. 27 - First Sunday in Lent.
- Mar. 1-3 - Southeast Regional Meeting, Avon Park, Florida.
- Mar. 8-17: Women's Fellowship Rallies.
- Mar. 8 - North Ala. women at Garden City, Ala.
- Mar. 9 - East Ala. women at Roanoke, Ala.
- Mar. 10 - Central Ala. women at Tallassee, Ala.
- Mar. 12 - South Ala. women at Andalusia, Ala.
- Mar. 14 - South Georgia women.
- Mar. 16 - Central Georgia women.
- Mar. 17 - North Georgia women.
- Mar. 15 - Pilgrim Circuit Rider, Rev. Lelia Anderson, begins tour of the southeast.
- Mar. 15-31 - Christian Education and PF Institutes, Miss Mildred Widbur and James Price, guest leaders. (Schedule to be announced later.) Plans are being made for a Convention-wide PF weekend conference during this period.
- Mar. 20-25 - Valley Leadership Training School at Lanett Church with Rev. Lelia Anderson and James Price as guest leaders.
- Mar. 21 - Social Action Institute, Southern Union College.
- Mar. 29 - Committee on Christian Education and Youth Work, Atlanta, at 10:30 A.M. E.S.T.
- Apr. - Pilgrim Circuit Rider still on tour.
- Apr. 3 - Palm Sunday.
- Apr. 7 - Kentucky-Tennessee Women's Fellowship Rally at Soddy, Tenn.
- Apr. 7 - Maundy Thursday.
- Apr. 8 - Good Friday.
- Apr. 10 - Easter Sunday.
- Apr. 12 - Convention Committee on Ministry & Churches, Atlanta, 10:30 A.M. E.S.T.
- Apr. 19-20 - Southeast Convention Meeting, Atlanta Central Church.
- May 2-7 - Ministers' Convocation & Training School, Southern Union College.



## Dr. Nelson C. Dreier Named Director of Hawaii Congregational Christian Churches

Announcement was made January 1 of the election of Nelson C. Dreier to succeed Leslie Dunstan as executive secretary of the Hawaiian evangelical association of Congregational Christian Churches. The appointment will be effective in February. Dr. Dreier now holds a similar position as minister of the Washington Congregational Christian Conference, Seattle. He has had wide experience of leadership both within his own denomination and in ecumenical affairs. The Congregational Christians have 114 churches in the islands, dating back to the arrival of the first missionaries in 1820. Dr. Dunstan, who held the post there for more than a decade, is now on the faculty of Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Mass.

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## American Board Year Book

Dr. Alford Carleton announces that the 1955 Year Book of the American Board is now available to Congregational Christians. He is eager for everyone to know of this, for it is designed to deepen our world-wide fellowship in Our Christian World Mission. There is a Calendar of Prayer included in the book, which sells for 25c (to partially cover expenses) and may be ordered by writing Room 102, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.

The Year Book contains statistical material, names and addresses of missionaries and personnel, history, purpose and organization of the American Board, and dates and information on mission fields. It would be very helpful to the Missionary Education Committees of local churches.

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## A Message from Dr. Berry

Dear Mrs. Albright,

It is quite hopeless for me to try to put into words the joy I had in receiving your letter with its delightful message from the Board of Directors. It brought back so many memories of the happy time I had in the Southeast Convention and however much happiness I was under God to bring it was as nothing to the happiness I got from friendship and welcome I received everywhere. It was indeed a most memorable time for me and I feel now that way down in the Southeast I have got a great family of friends of whom I shall often think and whose work will be in my thoughts and prayers. Will you give my warmest greetings to them all with every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours in the bond of friendship,  
Sidney M. Berry

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## Blessed Event

The Rev. and Mrs. David W. Clark of Roanoke, Ala., announce the birth of a baby girl on December 28 and weighing seven pounds, six ounces. Mr. Clark is pastor of the Roanoke Lowell Church.

## Spectacular Project

How would your men's club like to carry on conversations with a group of men half way across, up or down, the country?

Roy A. Leyare, 1045 Huntingdon Street, Watertown, New York, president of a men's club of 115 men with 85 active members, would like to carry on a discussion on some Bible question, a hot political subject, local church problems or anything else some other group of men would like to discuss.

The idea would be to put on a tape, 3½ or 7½ speed, a discussion, panel, forum or series of questions, and then mail them to Roy. He would go over them carefully, play them at the next men's meeting at his church and then return them for further consideration by the original group which started it.

If a group of men are interested and do not want to initiate the idea, please write directly to Roy and upon being advised of the subject that is to be discussed, Roy will start the tape rolling.

Many men's groups, even on an interdenominational basis, report much fun and profit from visiting other churches and either sharing in part or putting on the entire program.

Why not try out this or some other novel project and share your results or observations with the balance of the country. (This article was reprinted in full from the December issue of "The Fellowship". We thought some of the Laymen's Groups might be interested.)

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## Obituary

Jones Taft Gill of Ocilla, Ga., died December 23 as the result of a traffic accident. He was 46 years old, and is survived by his wife, the former Annie Lou Arthur, a son, Larry, aged 11, and his mother who lives in Macon.

Mr. Gill was formerly a member of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention, was promotional treasurer and a trustee of the Church Builders' Club, and a charter member of the new church at Tifton.

Funeral services were held at the First Congregational Church of Tifton and were conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Goff Bedford, assisted by the Reverends W. C. Carpenter, Henry Abbott, and J. A. Roundtree.

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## Anniversary

Three Congregational ministers and their families were dinner guests of the Rev. and Mrs. Lowell Smoot on December 19 in Soddy, Tenn.

The Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Slater and son, Mark, the Rev. and Mrs. A. L. DeJarnett, and the Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Davenport helped the Smoots celebrate their 9th wedding anniversary.

The rewards and punishments of life are not all deferred; every day is a judgment day, with reaping following swiftly on sowing.



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Rev. C. Carl Dollar.....Director, Extension Service

Mrs. Ed. A. Albright .....Registrar

Mrs. Jettie Logan .....Promotion

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Number 4

## The "Over 65 Club"

Communities over the country are becoming increasingly aware of the needs of the elderly people—needs as acute as those of the young people. The Women's Fellowship of the East Tallassee Congregational Christian Church has begun a project to meet these needs.

On October 26 the "65 Plus Club" was organized with 11 charter members, and Miss Rosamond Williams was elected to serve as president.

The 65'ers present for the photograph were Mr. T. L. Beck, Mr. Martin Butler, Mr. J. M. Sayers, Mrs. H. E. Wilson, Miss Rosamond Williams, Mrs. W. L. Collum, Mrs. J. I. Barker, Mrs. J. E. French and Mrs. Will Jones.

Although the Women's Fellowship of Liberty Church is the only sponsor at present, it is hoped that the club will soon be community-wide with other churches and civic groups assisting. There is no cost and no dues. All people over 65 years of age are invited to join—it is nondenomina-



65 Plus Club

## Toward a Greater Laymen's Fellowship in 1955

The aim of the Laymen's Fellowship is not merely to have a class, club, Forum or other type of men's organization within each church but to have one because experience has shown that far more can and will be accomplished through such organization.

The women of our churches are organized mostly under one of two names, The Women's Fellowship or the Women's Association. Their record of accomplishment speaks for itself.

Labor would not be enjoying the many rights and privileges it has today without the various union organizations.

Farmers have their several organizations through which they have improved their methods of farming and marketing thereby benefiting financially.

Retail businesses, banks, manufacturers, men in the various professions, civic employees, all have benefited after becoming organized and so will the men of each church.

Our church magazines include reports of the results in churches where a Laymen's Fellowship is organized and functioning. It is inspiring to read these reports. It is regrettable that **Advance** and the **Southeast News** are not in every home for not only the men but all the family would benefit from these publications.

It is strongly urged that in all churches where there is no Laymen's Fellowship or group associated with it, immediate action be taken to organize one. Do it now in order that plans may be made in time to participate in or take charge of activities such as Laymen's Sunday, Father's Day, Church Builders Sunday, and Laymen's Fellowship Institutes, Retreats and Conferences. Your planning committee will determine other projects for the group.

It is not intended that Fellowship groups shall be all work and no play. Social get togethers are also necessary so plan for dinners, picnics or parties in connection with some of your meetings.

There are laymen in all parts of the convention who will be eager to help in organizing local fellowships. The Convention President, Herman Cook is in Lanett, Alabama; Convention Vice President, is Arthur Snell, P. O. Box 297, Nashville, Tennessee. In Georgia write to W. Frank Gordon, 958 Madeira Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. Mr. Lewis Hair, Daisy, Tennessee, is President of the Kentucky-Tennessee Laymen's Fellowship. All of us are eager to help you get your laymen's fellowship going.

W. Frank Gordon  
Layman-at-large, Georgia

tional and persons of all faiths are urged to participate.

The program is planned with a devotional service, recreation, both planned and informal, and refreshments.

This is the kind of program for the elderly people of a community that could be most worthwhile and satisfying for those participating and those sponsoring the project.



# — SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

## "Another Year before Us"

Before saying anything about the future, may I take this opportunity of thanking all of you for the splendid cooperation and support in every phase of our Program of Progress in 1954. (Thanks for the many warm Holiday Greetings.)

Last year we made an enviable record of which we may be justly proud. We shall never forget the great moments in our local churches, associations, conferences and convention, when we took long forward steps.

On "Our Day of Decision" we were forcefully challenged by the full meaning and responsibility of "Our Christian World Mission". Now almost every church is sending to the Convention office regular monthly donations to the work of the church, here in the Southeast Convention and around the world. Many a congregation has learned to judge their success not with: "Look what we've got", but "Look what we're doing!"

Yes, our record for 1954 was a good one, and now there is another year before us.

What's ahead? We can never be sure, but as long as we continue to grow spiritually and to serve worthily the days ahead will be good days and each will bring us nearer His Kingdom.

Every church should set its own goals for achievement during 1955. At the beginning of a new calendar year it is good to get all the officers of the church together for an evaluating and planning session. What have we done? What needs to be done? How can we strengthen our fellowship groups? How can we improve our Sunday School? Are we proud of our building and grounds? Are we doing our best to interest others in the work of the church? How many new members did we take in last year? What was our pastor's salary last year? Was it fair and adequate? What was our total budget? How much did we give for "Our Christian World Mission"? Are we effectively ministering to the religious needs of our community?

These are just a few of the many questions you will want to ask of one another in such an evaluation and planning session. When you've got the answers, then is the time to look to the future, that 1955 may be an even greater year in the church's history.

While you are busily engaged at that worthwhile and important task, talk over the things which we want to do together in our Convention fellowship as well. Almost every page of this issue contains some good suggestions and helps for developing more effective programs. The Calendar of Activities for the next six months lists most of the important dates to be kept in mind. But there is one thing we must do together at once—the first big project of 1955!

We must reach our goal of 1000 members for the Church Builders' Club, so we can go into action in giving support to our baby churches—Douglas, Tifton and Nashville—and get on with the important business of starting new churches in cities like Huntsville, Ala., Macon, Ga., Pensacola, Fla., Greenville, S. C., Montgomery, Ala. etc.



Erston M. Butterfield

All we need to do to achieve success is to double our present membership. If each minister and each church would set aside one Sunday to emphasize the Church Builders' Club, tell how it is organized, explain its purpose and give folks an opportunity to join—we'd reach the 1000 member goal almost overnight.

Believing that we need the Church Builders' Club, confident that it will be a positive force in the establishment of new churches, and feeling it to be an honest and proper technique, I'm suggesting that Sunday, February 20, be set aside as Church Builders' Sunday. If you agree with the idea, let me know how you plan to observe the day in your church, and we'll pass along your suggestions. Let this be the first big Convention-wide project of the new year—and, as has been our custom in these recent years, let's thrill together over a job well done. The March issue of the Southeast News will carry a full report of the victory.

And now to bring this first 1955 Superintendent's Page to a close, I want to share with you some beautiful thoughts from W. R. Hunt, written under the title "A Morning Wish" . . .

"The sun is just rising on the morning of another day, the first day of a new year. What can I wish that this day, this year, may bring to me? Nothing that shall make the world or others poorer, nothing at the expense of other men; but just those few things which in their coming do not stop with me, but touch me rather as they pass and gather strength:

"A few friends who understand me, and yet remain my friends.

"A work to do which has real value without which the world would feel the poorer.

"A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed.

*(Please turn to page 12)*



## Christian Education and P. F. Plans

Our dreams and plans for 1955 will all depend on whether they are your dreams and plans, too. **WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE OUR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP WORK STRENGTHENED AND A THRIVING PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP IN EVERY CHURCH.** Millard Fuller, the Pilgrim Fellowship president of the Southeast Convention, is trying to do much through inspirational rallies in every district in the convention to make this possible. Pilgrim Fellowship also plans to have an all convention conference sometime soon.

This March from March 15-31, we are sponsoring the visit of **TWO OF OUR NATIONAL WORKERS TO THIS AREA.** **MISS MILDRED WIDBER** knows all about Church School work, particularly how to teach the Christian religion to children. **MR. JAMES PRICE** is the national Pilgrim Fellowship Vice-president. He is a young college graduate, who is giving this year to travel in helping our Pilgrim Fellowships. Do plan to take advantage of their visit in your area.

We will also have, for a longer period of time, **MISS LELA ANDERSON, OUR PILGRIM CIRCUIT RIDER,** with her station wagon. Whatever the need in your church or your area, she is prepared to meet it, whether organizing or strengthening a fellowship group or showing you how to teach a Nursery Class, or any all-church approach.

Begin now to talk up **ATTENDANCE AT THE SUMMER CONFERENCES.** Please notice the following dates and Deans. If you have suggestions to make, write to the Dean in your conference area----

June 5-10, Ky.-Tenn., Rev. Arnold Slater, Chattanooga, Tenn.

July 10-15, Ala. Junior High, Rev. Herbert Long, East Tallassee, Ala.

July 17-22, Ala. Sr. High, Rev. Raymond Berry, Rt. 2, Andalusia, Ala.

August 21-26, Ga. Family Camp, Rev. Henry Abbott, Rt. 5, Tifton, Ga.

It is **not** likely that we will actually get to have any of the conferences at our new camp-site on Lake Martin this summer, since it will take time to provide for the minimum requirements that would have to be met first for the health and safety of those attending. You will be encouraged to know that the land is under lease and that there will be a meeting of the Camp Site and Christian Education Committees shortly to go forward with plans for construction. We need groups who would be willing to have special "work-days" to help clear the premises and **get ready for building.**

**LET'S HAVE A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN EVERY CHURCH THIS SUMMER.** Please get in your requests for Student Summer workers to teach your Vacation Bible Schools, as early as you can, so we will know how many workers are needed. We can't guarantee that we will have enough outside leadership, but we will do our best to help as much as possible. Most churches are well able to pay expenses for such leadership,

## New Year's Resolutions

We are indebted to the calendarmakers, aren't we? By the time December 31 has arrived we have exhausted a year's supply of zest, vigor and enthusiasm, but come January 1 we shake off our depressions and look life squarely in the face again.

What a refreshing experience the making of New Year's Resolutions can be. What should we, the women of the Southeast, resolve for 1955?

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Resolve that all the Congregational Christian women of the Southeast actively participate in the Women's Fellowship.

2. Resolve that our Congregational Church literature be used in all phases of our church work—women's groups, church school, Pilgrim Fellowship, etc.

3. Resolve that we support our Southeast Convention through Our Christian World Mission, and publications such as **Southeast News** and **Advance**, etc.

4. Resolve that each of us share in the Woman's Gift in 1955.

5. Resolve that we strengthen our spiritual growth through the reading of the Holy Scripture and prayer.

Marjorie Carpenter expresses in the following lines "What Constitutes a Year That's New?"

"Not just spiced punch, gay cards,  
And a din of noisy bells,  
But close-felt sharing of the problems that unite  
The men of every race, a plan, a pact that tells  
Just where and how we mean to hold each other  
up,  
To split the ego, release energy, the power  
Pent up in every man and needed in this hour  
Of panic and despair.  
First, we must drain the cup  
Of truth, a bitter draught, this knowledge of  
ourselves.  
With it we pledge the charter for a world that's  
new.  
Inspired by crib and star, we move to sound the  
bells  
That promise joy, real joy.  
We pledge to join the fight  
Along with those who care to build a year that's  
new."

—Mary Margaret Smoot, President  
Southeast Convention Women's  
Fellowship

but no church will be denied a worker because of lack of funds. However, we are trying to be completely self-supporting and **do** want to pay for what we receive **as much as we are able.** If your church has its own leadership, perhaps you could give into the S.S.S. fund to help some other church.

**LET US IMPROVE OUR SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOLS.** Have you seen the Sunday School goals for 1954-'55 for the Southeast Convention? If you want a copy of them, write to the Atlanta office or to me.

—Annie R. Campbell, Garden City, Ala.  
Christian Education & Youth Work Comm.



# OPEN LETTER TO ALL P. F. 'S

Dear P.F'ers:

As our convention year of Pilgrim Fellowship passes its mid-point, I would like for all of us to stop for a moment and examine our PROGRAM OF PROGRESS thus far. Let's take stock, for a moment, of what has been done this year so as to be better informed and consequently more efficient PF'ers and Christians.

Immediately following the convention meeting in May of last year I jotted down some of the more important things I thought we needed to do this year. At a recent meeting of the convention officers, Albert Van Cleave, Inas Dillard and myself, I came across these GOALS. After examination of them, we decided that things were progressing very well. Here are the goals and a few comments about each. See what you think.

**GOAL NO. I. A PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP IN EVERY CHURCH IN THE CONVENTION (120).** This is, at the present, about 50% true, but even this is much better than last year. Almost every week I hear about a new P. F. group. Let's keep plugging. We can make it 100%.

**II. ADDRESS OF A KEY YOUNG PERSON IN EVERY P. F.** This has been worked out quite satisfactorily. Barring perhaps six fellowships, Inas, our secretary, can contact a key person in any P. F. in the Southeast Convention.

**III. THE ACQUISITION OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR EXPENSES OF SOUTHEAST P. F. WORK.** A plan calling for each P. F. member to give 25c per year to convention expenses will make this goal a reality. You will receive a letter from Inas in the near future explaining this in more detail.

**IV. GETTING THE ADULTS OF OUR CHURCHES MORE INTERESTED IN YOUTH WORK.** We're coming along on that score. At the convention last May, I called a few people OLD. They didn't like it but they woke up and took note of what was happening. More interest is needed. Maybe you won't have to call anybody old to get results, but that's one way.

**V. YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLANNING COUNCIL FOR SUMMER CONFERENCES.** At Lanett in October this was realized. Fifteen P. F. leaders representing every state in the convention met to discuss, among other things, summer conferences. A few of those present were Jane Henderson, P. F. secretary in Georgia, Joe Royce Adams, President of Alabama P. F., and Ann Kampmeir, representative from Tennessee.

**VI. AT LEAST ONE MEETING OF THE CONVENTION OFFICERS YEARLY.** This goal states a bare minimum. Many such meetings are usually needed. In fact, this year Albert, Inas, and I have found a need to meet several times.

**VII. CLOSER ASSOCIATION BETWEEN P. F. LEADERS AND THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH WORK.** Two meetings of the Christian Education Committee have been held so far this year. Youth representatives have sat in on both of them. Definitely, I think both the PF'ers and the committee

members profited greatly by these two joint meetings.

**VIII. GETTING MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP TO HEART.** In the past few months, many new enthusiasts have joined this exclusive few of the past. The few is expanding into many, but there is room for more. Take this business of P. F. to heart, won't you?

**IX. DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAKE MARTIN PROJECT.** I know we are all concerned about this project and each of us would like to see it completed very shortly, but a mite of patience is required here. Since the Southeast Convention voted to become autonomous last May, money is scarce around these parts. However, plans have been drawn up and talk, at least, of building has been circulating. If you have any ideas on the matter, I'm sure Mrs. Jettie Logan, chairman of the project committee, would be glad to hear them. Her address is Tallassee, Alabama.

**X. PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP PLANNING COUNCIL FOR NEXT YEAR'S SOUTHEAST CONVENTION P.F. MEETING.** One of the main items on the agenda of the Lanett session was planning for the S.E. meeting. Since the meeting this year will be independent of the regular convention meeting of the churches, an entire program had to be laid out. Final plans as to time, place, speakers, etc., were left to another committee to decide later, but much of the actual program schedule was planned at Lanett. Each P. F. group will receive more information on this meeting as soon as the committee of finality makes its report.

Another item of interest, something which I did not foresee at the beginning of the year, has blossomed forth. I am referring to the newly formed system of P.F. districts. Of all the things that have been accomplished this year, without a doubt this is the biggest.

The first district to be organized was the Valley. Leaving association lines altogether, the group of churches around the Valley located geographically so as to eliminate the distance barrier, organized and had its first meeting in September. At that first meeting a slate of officers consisting of Harrell Hardy, President; LaDelle Nelson, Vice President; Claudette Brumeloe, Secretary, and Patsy Yancy, Treasurer, was elected. The Rev. A. Goff Bedford, an instrumental figure in effecting this system of districts, was elected as adult adviser. Another meeting was held in December. Everyone thoroughly enjoys these district meetings, or rallies, held on Sunday afternoons.

Another district which has not met but which has plans on foot is the Wadley area. The first rally is slated to be held at Southern Union College on January 16. An elaborate program, including workshops on the three commissions (faith, action, fellowship), recreation, an evening meal, and visiting speakers, has been planned. Needless to say, everyone in that area is looking forward to January 16.



# Church News . . . . .

Two Christmas plays were given at the **Garden City Church** during Christmas week. The primary class gave a play about the origin of the Christmas carols "Away in the Manger" and "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem". Those in it were: James Kretzschmar, Betty Knighten, Eloise Vincent, C. V. Vincent, Gladys Vincent, Billy Chappel, Charles Chamblee, Margaret Chamblee, Marlin Gletty, and Peggy Rooks. The play given by the Pilgrim Fellowship was "No Room in the Inn". Those in it were: Harold Kretzschmar, Diane Kretzschmar, Peggy Seibert, Mary Chappel, Danny Gletty, Verlon Coker, Ray Kretzschmar, Wayne Kretzschmar, Billy Vincent, Rod Washburn, and Charles Knighten. The Christmas carol, "Good King Wenceslas" was dramatized by Carol Knighten, Jeany Seibert, and C. V. Vincent.

A bazaar was given by the Garden City Congregational Christian Church to raise money to send to Southern Union College for a scholarship. The remaining money is to go for a heating system for the parsonage. Members of the Sunday School and Church baked pies, cakes, cookies, etc., and donated them to the bazaar. Many hand made articles were donated to the church by the women. Approximately \$65.00 was made. The bazaar was given in the town hall and had the full cooperation of the mayor.

Shigemi Morita, a Japanese student from Southern Union College visited our pastor a few days during the holidays. While here he visited the Hanceville High School where most of the members of the P.F. go to school.

A group from the church went caroling a few days before Christmas.

The congregation gave \$9.00 for the White Gift to the Share Our Surplus Fund.

The Church surprised the pastor with a black suit for Christmas.

—Diane Kretzschmar, reporter

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The young people of **Elder Church** with the help of Mrs. Barret Ingram, their adult leader, did a very good job decorating the church for

Joe Royce Adams, with the help of the Reverend Raymond Berry, is working on plans for a district in South Alabama and Northwest Florida. Wilfordine Royal is making plans for a district in South Georgia. It is hoped that districts can be set up all over the convention before May. If you are in an area that does not have a district and you would like to see one organized, write me and we'll see what we can do.

Well this just about sums up our **PROGRAM OF PROGRESS** for now. I think our record is remarkable, but we can do better still. What do you think? Let me know. My address is Box 338, Magnolia Hall, Auburn, Alabama.

In Christ I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Millard Fuller, President

S.E. Conv. Pilgrim Fellowship

the Christmas holidays. The bright green of the pine, cedar and holly, the red holly berries and the silvered pine cones were very beautiful with the red and white candles. All this against the gray walls of the church auditorium provided an appropriate setting for the programs presented during the week preceding Christmas.

On Sunday morning, December 19, no regular Sunday School classes were held. Instead each class presented a program. The beginners and the juniors combined and they gave a pageant which was a portrayal of the Christmas Story. Seeing the lovely angels, the kindly shepherds, and the stately wisemen as they gathered around the manger with Mary and Joseph seated nearby did much toward making the old story live anew in the hearts of the people.

The young people had prepared a program of Christmas carols and readings and the adults carried the congregation on an imaginary walk through the streets of Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth.

On Christmas Eve a very impressive Candle-light Communion Service was held at the church with the Rev. Clyde Flannery assisting the Rev. Donald Ross in serving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This was preceded by a medley of Christmas Carols sung by the Pilgrim Fellowship group.

—Mrs. Washburn, reporter

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We of the First Congregational Church of **Andalusia, Alabama**, knew there was something in the air. Every time we would pass the church we would see Edward Knight, the pastor, meeting with his Board of Trustees. Then the bomb shell hit. Sunday morning, November 14, the Rev. Mr. Knight invited 27 members to a training class on stewardship. The time was Wednesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m., place: church dining room, meal: hot dogs and hamburgers. When the meeting was called to order 25 of the 27 members were present. Short inspirational talks were given by Bill Address and Yancey Kelley, then the Rev. Mr. Knight gave us some good solid material for the job at hand. We knew from the enthusiastic response to this meeting that we were ready for a successful Every Member Canvass.

Then on November 21 we made our Every Member Canvass. We are glad to say the budget was over subscribed by approximately \$700.00. We would like to commend our Board of Trustees, Bill Address, John Fore, C. C. Graves, Glen Brunson and our pastor for doing such a splendid job in the organization of the Every Member Canvass, and we would like to say thanks to all members of our church for their wonderful cooperation in this project. With this spirit of cooperation and willingness to work together, and with the help of God, we feel there is no limit to what our church can accomplish this coming year.

The Laymen's Fellowship, headed by Hilton Blackmon, have erected flood lights at the back



of our church so now we will be able to hold picnics, ball games, etc., at night on the lawn back of our church.

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Flowers, fruits, pumpkins and pine boughs decorated the **Lanett Fellowship Hall** on November 23 for the young people's banquet. Harvey Ray, local policeman, entertained the group with his humorous Korean war experiences and his very good imitations of various types of planes. Dean A. R. Van Cleave of Southern Union College was speaker for the evening. His speech was witty and was appropriately closed with a serious Thanksgiving challenge. E. G. Shaddix, Jr., served as master of ceremonies and the delicious meal was prepared by the Dorcas and Jr. Women circles. Fifty-one young people and their leaders attended.

The East Alabama-West Georgia Laymen's Fellowship meeting was held on November 24. The meal was prepared and served by members of the Priscilla Circle. Rev. F. J. Mehrtens of the E. and R. Church of Cullman was a most interesting speaker.

The Junior Women's Circle had a most enjoyable Christmas party at the Chevrolet Lodge in early December. After a tasty meal of barbecued chicken, Charles Fetner directed the group of thirty in various games. A most effective Christmas program was presented by the Junior Women at the Auxiliary meeting on December 13. Hostess for this occasion was the Lydia Circle. After attendance for a portion of the meeting the Julia Elder Circle girls went to the home of June Collier for their Christmas party and exchange of gifts.

Thanksgiving was a time of sharing for the Julia Elder Circle. Two families were remembered with groceries and gifts, toys and clothing was sent to the Elon Orphanage for Christmas. This group of high school girls has an excellent attendance record of 100% for every meeting this year—which has been every two weeks.

Quite a bit of activity has been taking place among our circles in the raising of funds for necessary equipment and improvements. The Lydia Circle recently sponsored a gospel quartet concert which was given at the new public school auditorium. The sale of fruit cakes has made a handsome profit for the Priscilla Circle.

In an effort to prepare a year's program most suitable for the majority of the membership, Rev. French has given out inventory sheets to be filled in with suggestions toward organizations and emphasis along the listings of favorite hymns. A committee comprised of the heads of departments has been appointed to formulate the plans from the returned inventory sheets. So far our pastor has found it is much easier for people to talk than it is for them to write. Maybe it is because everybody is so busy right now and returns will come in better later.

Mrs. Joe French directed a pageant for the children and young people which was presented the evening of December 19. Mrs. Bobby McClure was the reader; Mrs. Render Fuller, pianist; and Lavinia Stephens, soloist. The Christmas story was most effectively presented in a setting of

great simplicity. A period of fellowship and light refreshments followed.

At 7:15 on the same evening the choir, under the direction of Mrs. Posey Sorrell, presented a most beautiful cantata. A period of fellowship and refreshments followed this program. A gift of appreciation was presented to Mrs. Sorrell, who has served her church so faithfully and untiringly for so many years.

Walter Reneker of Cincinnati, Ohio, gave an organ recital in the sanctuary on December 20, in an informal and informative manner. The church organ was used for some of the numbers, and an organ adaptable for home use was used for others. He concluded his wonderful recital with the group singing Christmas carols. Mr. Reneker represents the Baldwin organs.

A Christmas Carol tour was made by the young people on Tuesday night, December 21. Fruit was furnished by the Men's Club for distribution among shut-ins. The tour was enjoyed by 27, and 23 bags of fruit were distributed. Curtis Sims gave the group the use of his truck and the portable organ was carried along to accompany the singing. Back at the church the boys and girls enjoyed games under the direction of Charles Fetner and refreshments of hot chocolate and sandwiches. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lashley, Mrs. Joe French, Frank Moon, John Dollar, Jr., and Mrs. A. D. Harry accompanied the group.

—Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

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The **Mt. Creek Church** had a full program on December 19. Following the regular Sunday School program, the S.S. secretary, Edd Esco, gave each one a bag of fruit and candy. This is an annual affair and everyone looks forward to it—the old as well as the young. It is the love that goes with this gift that really counts.

The pastor, the Rev. Otto Culpepper, brought a most inspiring message on "The Gift" at the morning service. That evening the Pilgrim Fellowship had charge of the service, under the direction of Mrs. Beulah Wilson, Mrs. Gary Johnson, Mrs. Gerden McJennis, Mrs. Earl Reynolds, and Mrs. Vernon Boldin. The Primaries and Juniors brought the real meaning of Christmas to us in readings and songs, and the Intermediates and Seniors brought us a three-act play, "His Name Shall Be Jesus". This was followed by an exchange of gifts which had been left under a hugh, beautifully decorated Christmas tree. At this time the church presented the Rev. and Mrs. Culpepper with a grocery shower, and also contributed a grocery shower to a needy family. A/TC Fred Knight and Mrs. Knight from Gunter Field were with us and Fred made pictures.

The church has elected Rev. Culpepper as pastor for another year, at a regular business meeting, and we are looking forward to a splendid year under his wonderful leadership.

—Mrs. Sam Johnson, Jr., and

Mrs. Leonard Smith, Reporters

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The **Richland Church** members and friends were entertained with a delightful Christmas program, carols, and a covered dish supper on the evening of December 15.

We close our church books on 1954 with thanks



and regrets. We have had our church painted on the exterior and interior. Many repairs have been made on the parsonage, and some of it has been painted. We hope to get our parsonage completely redecorated and painted during 1955.

The church has called the Rev. S. M. Penn as pastor for another year, and under his leadership we hope to accomplish much more in 1955.

—Mrs. W. J. Abell, Sr., reporter

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The Rev. Earl Hand has been called as pastor of **Pearson Union Hill Church** for another year.

Our Ladies' Aid Society recently sent boxes of home-made cookies to the Old Ladies Home in Vidalia. We enjoyed doing this for the old ladies who live there, especially since some of us know several of the ladies very well.

Why are women more interested in the church than men? I cannot answer this question myself but I often wonder on Sunday mornings in our church as I count the mothers against the fathers present and find the women lead by five to one.

—Miriam Bazemore, reporter

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On October 24 the **Oak Grove Church** called the Rev. Henry C. Weaver as our new pastor. We are very fortunate to have him in our community and we know he will be an inspiration to all.

On October 27 the Sunday School sponsored a Halloween Carnival which was held at the school. The proceeds of \$117 went toward the organ fund. The Deacons and Trustees of the church sponsored an oyster and chicken supper on December 3, and the proceeds of \$20 also was sent to the organ fund.

Seven new members joined the church by letter on December 5, church membership day.

On December 19 the Pilgrim Fellowship presented a candlelight service, "The Pageant of Light", directed by Mrs. Mildred Hagler, as the choir sang the familiar Christmas carols. There was excellent attendance for the supper and Christmas tree party at the church on December 22. Santa Claus was there to hand out gifts to the children, and the pastor was pleased with a gift of money from the congregation.

The WMS has given \$100 toward refinishing the interior of the church, and plans are being prepared by the trustees to completely renovate the interior. The PF gave, and Guy Bass installed, new front doors for the church.

Dr. D. W. Shepherd, former pastor, and his family visited in the community during the holidays, spending the night with Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hagler. Their many friends were happy to have this opportunity of seeing them again.

The young people had charge of the morning service and gave an inspiring program January 2 on "Love, the Badge of Distinction". Matthew Hodnett, Larry Thompson, Eva Hoxsie and Sandra McGuire sang as a quartett and gave messages.

—Margie McGuire, reporter

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The **Evarts First Church** continues its progress and its full program of activities. The women of the church have contributed a great deal in time and effort and their many projects have made possible many improvements. The program of two luncheons each month for the Lions Club continues under the direction of Mrs. J. H. Turner and Mrs. E. L. Vaughn, with women from both missionary circles assisting and furnishing food. The annual Christmas bazaar, headed by Mrs. Vaughn and Mrs. McKnight, and the Thrift Shop begun by Mrs. Semour, have helped greatly in paying for the organ. Individual donations, substantial donations from both WMS societies and payments made by the Lois Vincent Society have made it possible to finish paying for the organ in less than a year. The church is grateful to all who have helped to make the Thrift Shop possible, and we hope it will continue to grow in 1955, as it has been a service to the community as well as a successful project for the church.

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship painted and repaired toys to be given out at Christmas to children. The young people also had Watch Night Service on New Year's with a worship service, social hour and refreshments.

The WMS, Circle I and Lois Vincent, held the annual Christmas party on December 13, and Mrs. Charles Scoville directed the pageant given in the sanctuary of the church. Life pictures of the Christmas story in characters and costumes were beautifully portrayed with scripture readings and Christmas carols. The setting and lighting for the play, handled by Charles Scoville, added much to its beauty and impressiveness.

After the pageant the ladies went into the beautifully decorated church parlor for games, refreshments and the exchange of gifts.

The Christmas Candlelight service was held



Evarts W.M.S. Christmas Party



on December 19 under the direction of the pastor, the Rev. Collie Seymour, and the real meaning of Christmas was illustrated in sermon, song and story. This service was followed by White Gifts for Christmas baskets and a silver offering for aged and disabled Congregational Christian ministers, their widows and orphans.

The Sunday School held its Christmas program with a tree and treats for the children on December 22.

Eleven needy families received baskets from the White Gifts and donations from the two missionary circles, 20 families with children received toys, which were given by church school members, local stores and through the thrift shop.

Our pastor and family appreciated the gift checks for their Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners from the two missionary circles, and especially appreciated the check for \$100 from the church an expression of love and appreciation for them and their work since coming to us.

Mrs. Connor Linkous, our organist and S.S. superintendent, was given a lovely purse and glove set in appreciation of her faithfulness and help in so many branches of the church work.

—Mrs. N. B. Smith, reporter

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The women of the **First Church of Soddy** re-organized the Women's Fellowship in November. Miss Hannah Roberts will install the following officers in January: President, Mrs. Lowell Smoot; Vice President, Miss Elizabeth Jenkins; Secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Dorothy Teague; and Key Woman, Mrs. Marie Wood. Mrs. Jack Jenkins, Mrs. Bill Smith and Miss Mary Ann Roberts compose the Constitution Committee.

Miss Mary Ann Roberts beautifully decorated the church for the White Christmas service on December 19. Several baskets of food were distributed to friends in the community.

The Pilgrim Fellowship of the **Soddy-Daisy Parish** was jointly organized in October. At an impressive installation service Susanne Teague was installed as president; Walter Wood, vice president; Barbara Ferry, secretary-treasurer; Martha Wood, chairman of Christian Fellowship; Mary Edith Wood, chairman of Christian Faith; Jackie Griswold, chairman of Christian Action.

Some of their recent activities have been Work Day for Christ, a Hallowe'en party sponsored by the PF and the youth of the Methodist Church, and Christmas caroling—at which time miniature Christmas trees were presented to some of the shut-ins and retired ministers of the community.

Mary Margaret Smoot

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The **Daisy Church** has been very busy since the arrival of the new pastor, the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot, who came to us from Phenix City United Church, Phenix City, Ala.

The quarterly meeting of the Sunday School officers and teachers was held at the home of the superintendent, K. R. Griswold, and at this meeting it was decided to order samples of the Pilgrim Series Sunday School literature. The need for additional classrooms was felt to be our most pressing problem at present. Twenty-five attended the meeting.

A Junior Church is now being held for children from 6 to 12 in the adjoining cabin at the eleven o'clock hour. The worship service is performed with great dignity, but on the Juniors' level of understanding. Great interest has been shown in this service and the attendance is good. Mrs. Lowell Smoot is director and Mrs. Paul Davenport is her assistant.

The Budget Committee met recently and completed the church budget for the year. The church has accepted this budget and plans are now being made for the Every Member Canvass.

The Ladies' Guild sponsored a Thanksgiving Fellowship supper on November 26 in the cabin, including guild members and their families. After the meal the film, "The Beginning", was shown. The fellowship of this meeting was an uplift to every one present. At the close of the meeting a surprise pantry shower was given the pastor and his wife.

The Program and Devotional Committee of the Ladies' Guild had a joint meeting recently at the home of Mrs. Lowell Smoot in Soddy. Plans for the year's work were completed and dates and subjects added to the Yearbooks.

A new Sunday School class for couples was organized in November. Mrs. Eugene Burneth is teacher. The following officers were elected: president, Ellis Ferry; vice president, Alton Frazier; secretary, Mrs. Paul Lewis; treasurer, Mrs. Herman Ables. The class held a pot-luck supper and Christmas party December 11 at the home of the teacher.

The Ladies' Guild Christmas party was held Thursday, December 16, at the home of Mrs. Herman Yarnell. Mrs. Ellis Ferry and Mrs. Dwight gave the program in the form of the Christmas story.

All children of the Sunday School and Junior Church participated in the Christmas program given the evening of December 19 in the church. The Teenage Choir was featured on the program with a tableaux. Mrs. Claude Pendergrass is chairman, Mrs. Ellis Ferry is leader of the Teenage Choir, Mrs. Smoot and Mrs. Paul Davenport of the Junior Church group.

On December 22 the church gave all the children a Christmas party in the Cabin. Santa was present to deliver presents and see all the children.

—Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, reporter

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**Central Church** of Atlanta closed the 1954 year with a feeling that much had been accomplished. The church has increased in numerical strength, and the giving has been increased not only for the program of the church but for the work in our own nation and in other lands. Improvements have been made in the church building. In his December message, Dr. Anderson, pastor, said, "There has been a splendid response from the people of the church in respect to tasks to be performed to keep it at high effectiveness. We have met and solved many problems. We have been able to encourage and strengthen the hearts of many people; provide illumination for many minds; to perform numerous little ministries, like friendliness, patience, gentleness, forgiveness, humor, fellowship and others, which while not mat-



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Atlanta, Georgia

ters of record have gone far to bless and enrich children of God and brethren of Christ. Whether we have said it aloud or not all has been done in His name and for the honor of God, and that has added a glory to our toils. In the light of the past, we can face the new year with high courage. There will be problems, and disappointments and discouragements, but we will not need to face them alone. The God we worship and love and the Christ we love and serve will be with us in spirit in all our work."

The 1955 officers of the Women's Guild were installed by Dr. Anderson at the December 1 meeting. They are: Virginia Miller, president; Betty Alsaker, vice-president; Ethlyne Henry, treasurer; Dove Ferren, corresponding secretary; Hope Rapp, recording secretary. Chairmen of the Circles are: Circle No. 1, Isabelle Wilson; Circle No. 2, Charlotte Robb; Circle No. 3, Myna Hill.

The 1954 Bazaar hit the jackpot, financially and socially. Featuring a bountiful Smorgasbord, booths of exquisite hand-made gifts and homemade foods, members cleared a net profit of \$723.37. To Esther Radebaugh, her committee, and all members of the Women's Guild, goes a big, beautiful bouquet of orchids, for one of Central's more profitable and smoothly presented Bazaars.

New officers of the Business and Professional Women's Club are Jennie Clark, president; Elizabeth Parsons, vice-president; Barbara Greve, secretary; Addie Gage, treasurer. By an enthusiastic rising vote, the gratitude of the group was extended to Dr. Amey Chappell for her excellent service as president during the years 1953-54.

Central's Couples' Club rolled up another project victory by redecorating the church Assembly Room and three Church School classrooms. Ceilings were done in shining white, with the walls a soft, driftwood gray . . . a beautiful "new look" completed in time for Christmas activities.

Through Couples' Club projects, the Assembly Room has been decorated now for the second time, and draperies hung at the windows. This group is also responsible for a new set of maroon robes for the Sanctuary Choir, and the solid brass Altar set. The asphalt tile floors in the Assembly Room, Beginners' room and the Kindergarten room, were a Couples' Club project. The group also redecorated and equipped the minister's study. The total cost of these improvements, made throughout the years, is approximately \$2,000.

The Rev. Erston M. Butterfield gave a Christmas message at the December 12 meeting, and the entire evening was a source of enrichment to everyone who attended with the Sanctuary Choir offering inspiring carols.

The Young Adults group visited the Agnes

Scott Observatory in November, seeing many planets and stars they had never seen before through the hugh telescope. A brief description and explanation of what appeared as the fabulous telescope moved across the heavens was given by Dr. Caulder, member of the Agnes Scott faculty and designer of the famous planetarium. The Square Dance held November 19 was such a success that another is planned for January.

Dr. Boone M. Bowen, Professor of the Old Testament at Candler School of Theology, gave an interesting, illustrated talk at the joint meeting of the Young Adults and Pilgrim Fellowship on December 5. Dr. Bowen just returned from a trip to the holy Land, and his address was sparkled with first-hand observations. He colored his remarks with slides of Jericho and Jerusalem.

The Pilgrim Fellowship had a thrilling tour through WAGA-TA studio in November. They were presented with \$5 bills by Van Darby, promotional director, and the only catch was that the bills were reprints of Confederate money—so they may have to wait a while before they can be spent.

The S.O.S. Thanksgiving offering of Central Church, "House of Inspiration", came to \$193.25.

On December 12 nineteen additional members were received into the membership of the church. The total received during 1954 was 63.

—from "The Messenger", published monthly by Central Church of Atlanta.

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The Laymen's Fellowship of the East Tallassee Church was organized in February, 1954. During the past year it has been very active in the work of the church and its 18 members have become more active and have grown spiritually through the meetings. The group meets the second Thursday night of each month, and the programs have been varied and interesting.

—B. J. Pemberton.

## Superintendent's Page

(From page 5)

"An understanding heart.

"A sight of the eternal hills and unresting sea, and of something beautiful the hand of man has made.

"A sense of humor and the power to laugh.

"A little leisure with nothing to do.

"A few moments of quiet, silent meditation. The sense of the presence of God.

"And the patience to wait for the coming of these things, with the wisdom to know them when they come."

—Erston M. Butterfield